

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 ARA-14 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02
TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 /152 W
-----011489 031701Z /43

R 031610Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7772
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XJ, AO, PEPR
SUBJECT: SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE ON THE ANGOLA BUILD-UP

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF JULY 2 SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE
ENTITLED "RED PARAS JOIN IN NAMIBIA BUILD-UP," BY
ANTONY TERRY (DATELINE PARIS).

BEGIN TEXT:

EAST GERMAN PARATROOPS ARE BEING ASSEMBLED IN ANGOLA
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TO SPEARHEAD AN ATTACK ON NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA),
ACCORDING TO FRENCH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS. THE AIM,
AS REPORTED IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TWO WEEKS AGO, IS TO
SET UP A SOVIET-BACKED REGIME.

THE FRENCH REPORTS SAY THE EAST GERMANS HAVE SET UP
A COMMAND CENTRE IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE NATO BASE

OF HENRIQUE DA CARVALHO IN NORTH-EAST ANGOLA. OTHER WESTERN SOURCES SAY THE GERMANS WOULD HELP SOVIET AND POLISH INSTRUCTORS TO TRAIN CUBAN AND ANGOLAN TROOPS FOR A "LIBERATION ARMY" TO MAKE THE INITIAL ASSAULT ON WINDHOEK AND OTHER KEY CENTRES. AIR ATTACKS WILL BE MADE SIMULTANEOUSLY ON THE PORT OF WALVIS BAY. THE RUSSIANS ARE SAID TO HAVE REPLACED THEIR OLD MIG 17S IN ANGOLA WITH MIG 21S AND MIG 23S.

THE RUSSIAN SCENARIO FOR NAMIBIA, WHICH IS SOON TO BECOME INDEPENDENT AFTER ALMOST 60 YEARS OF SOUTH AFRICAN RULE, ENVISAGES ONLY A LIMITED ROLE FOR THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION, WHICH HAS WAGED A LONG GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICANS. SWAPO'S TASK, SAYS FRENCH INTELLIGENCE, WOULD BE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE "SPONTANEOUS NATIONAL UPRISING" WITH TERRORIST ACTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY AN AIRDROP OF THE "LIBERATION" FORCES AND THEN A FULL-SCALE INVASION ON TRADITIONAL MILITARY LINES.

IN CHARGE OF THE BUILD-UP IS THE SENIOR SOVIET COMMANDER IN ANGOLA, GENERAL CHAHANOVICH, WHOSE PLANNING STAFF CONSISTS OF FIVE OF THE 11 SOVIET GENERALS SENT TO ANGOLA IN RECENT MONTHS.

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ANGOLA'S ANTI-GOVERNMENT FNLA MOVEMENT SAYS SOVIET ARMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR TWO DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN SINCE EARLY JUNE. THE HEAVIER WEAPONS INCLUDE T54 AND T62 TANKS AND ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS.

THE ANGOLAN ARMY, WHICH ON PAPER HAS SIX DIVISIONS, CANNOT IN FACT MUSTER MORE THAN 10,000 MEN, AND MOST OF THE TROOPS TO BE USED IN A NAMIBIA OPERATION WOULD BE CUBANS. ACCORDING TO WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, AN ADDITIONAL 8,000 CUBANS ARRIVED IN ANGOLA RECENTLY.

INDICATIONS ARE EMERGING, HOWEVER, THAT ANGOLA MIGHT BE MOVING AWAY FROM COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND THAT THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR ALLIES CANNOT DEPEND ON ITS UNQUESTIONING CO-OPERATION.

LAST WEEK PRESIDENT CARTER SENT HIS ROVING ENVOY, DON MCHENRY, TO LUANDA, ANGOLA'S CAPITAL, IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE US-ANGOLAN RELATIONS. THEN PRESIDENT NETO OF ANGOLA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL, THE FORMER COLONIAL POWER, SETTLING

DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE PERSISTED SINCE INDEPENDENCE
THREE YEARS AGO. AND ON THURSDAY THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS SENDING A SENIOR
OFFICIAL TO LUANDA SOON TO DISCUSS TRADE AND AID.

THE PARIS NEWSPAPER AURORE SAYS A DEAL BETWEEN

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PRESIDENT NETO AND THE WEST IS NOW BEING WORKED OUT.
IN RETURN FOR WESTERN ECONOMIC AID, ANGOLA WOULD CALL
OFF THE NAMIBIA INVASION, SILENCE SWAPO, AND GRANT
FRANCE EXCLUSIVE OIL EXPLOITATION RIGHTS IN ANGOLA,
AT PRESENT HELD BY GULF OIL OF AMERICA.

AS PART OF THE DEAL, FRANCE WOULD DROP ITS PLANS FOR
AN AFRICAN MILITARY FIRE BRIGADE FORCE AND THE WEST
WOULD WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FOR THE FNLA AND ANGOLA'S
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OTHER RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, UNITA.

IT WAS LEARNED FROM WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
YESTERDAY THAT JONAS SAVIMBI, HEAD OF UNITA, IS
VIRTUALLY MAROONED IN KINSHASA, CAPITAL OF NEIGHBOUR-
ING ZAIRE.

MAJOR-GENERAL JANNIE GELDENHUYS, SOUTH AFRICAN COMMAND-
ER IN NAMIBIA, SAID ON FRIDAY THAT THE RUSSIANS AND
CUBANS ARE NOW TRAINING THE SWAPO GUERRILLAS FOR CON-
VENTIONAL WARFARE. DOCUMENTS CAPTURED DURING THE
RAID ON A BIG SWAPO BASE IN ANGOLA IN MAY SHOWED A
HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT, HE SAID. END TEXT

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